Zeynab Javadli: message to the United Nations

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 25 November 2026

Transcript. Video length 1 min 10 s. Words as spoken.

This is a message to the United Nations.

My name is Zeynab Javadli. I'm Azerbaijani. I'm the ex-wife of Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the nephew of the Ruler of Dubai. I'm the mother of Sheikha Sana, Sheikha Asia and Sheikha Salama. My children are Emirati and Azerbaijani.

Today is the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. I'm wearing orange because today the world says no to violence against women.

In June, around eighteen armed men and women broke into my home in the middle of the night. I was beaten and drugged. My children were taken from their beds, screaming, and I've not seen them since. They have lived with me all their lives. We have suffered years of abuse since my divorce from their father.

Today, my elderly mother and I stood in a criminal court in Dubai, accused of kidnapping my own children.

Please support my fight, for my children, for justice for myself and my beautiful girls. Please help me be reunited with my girls. Please help me in any way you can. Thank you.